

FOUR PHASES OF DROUGHT RESPONSE SYSTEM

PHASE 1 - ADVISORY PHASE

This phase is declared when below normal rainfall has occurred for several months. This phase initiates assessment monitoring by the Climate and Weather sub-committee of the Drought Assessment Committee.

PHASE 2 - DROUGHT ALERT

This phase is declared when plants begin to show stress, stream levels drop, and rainfall is below normal for many months. Pond levels begin to noticeably fall.

PHASE 3 - CONSERVATION PHASE

This phase is declared when stream flows, river and lake levels continue to decline, soil moisture is approaching wilting point for plants and dry weather is expected to continue. Water suppliers should begin conserving water and consider alternative sources.

PHASE 4 - DROUGHT EMERGENCY

This phase is declared when many ponds and streams are dry, river stages at record daily lows, crops cannot recover, trees begin to wilt, water levels drop below pumps, and water rationing and hauling is needed.



MISSOURI DROUGHT PLAN ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



COORDINATION

According to state statute, the Department of Natural Resources shall "ensure that the quality and quantity of the water resources of the state are maintained at the highest level practicable to support present and future beneficial uses. The department shall inventory, monitor and protect the available water resources in order to maintain water quality, protect the public health, safety and general and economic welfare."

During times of drought, the Department of Natural Resources coordinates the Missouri Drought Plan, which provides for measured responses to worsening effects of drought. It allows flexibility in responding to drought and guides both local and statewide mitigation efforts. The level of drought is generally determined on a county-by-county basis, although more specific recommendations can be made in a response to a specific situation.

The Climate and Weather Committee (CWC) is a standing sub-committee that begins monitoring conditions upon first signs of concern. When appropriate, the CWC notifies the Governor that activation of the Drought Assessment Committee (DAC) is recommended. The DAC coordinates the response of 14 major state and federal agencies with local governments, private industry and concerned citizens to evaluate and mitigate drought impacts.

Should conditions worsen, the Governor may independently or after review of recommendations by the DAC, activate the Drought Executive Committee (DEC). The DEC membership may include members of DAC who have authority to act on behalf of the agency head in this capacity. The DEC is charged with developing short and long-term recommendations for drought response and management.

